Overview 2027 UT Summer Research Program

Highlights and Application Process

OVERVIEW

The UTSW Medical Student Summer Research Program provides a full-time investigative research experience for medical students. Program students will undertake a basic, clinical, or translational research project for the summer, which is intended to increase their scientific knowledge and skills and enable them to benefit from a rich research experience. Students will also attend a series of weekly lunch-time seminars in which faculty discuss the fundamentals of basic and clinical research.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are advised to review the list of previous Summer Research Projects to get a feel for projects previously selected for funding and to see a list of faculty who have already demonstrated an interest in being research mentors.

In the fall, students should begin to identify labs and faculty that investigate biomedical topics of interest and have possible projects for summer research. Once the student and mentor decide to apply with a specific project, both need to complete the Letter of Intent **(due Feb 5th).** Then, they will work in tandem to develop the research proposal and mentor training plan to be included in the student's application **(due March 1st).**

TIMELINE:
Application opens: Nov 1st
Letter of Intent due: Feb 5th
Completed application due: **March 1st**
Award notification: approx. March 26th
Summer Program Dates: June 1 to July 30, 2027

Find Application & Project Indexes Here →

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The application requires general student information as well as:

1. **Project Proposal (500-1000 words):** This proposal, co-written by the mentor and student, should delineate the student's anticipated project. Please make sure the proposal is tailored for a summer research project, and not a general lab abstract or an abstract from a broad grant proposal. We value new, data-producing research. It should include all of the following:
   a) Background of Project: (minimum 75 words, maximum of 250): Provide the scientific or scholarly background for, rationale for, and significance of the proposed research based on the existing literature and current gaps in knowledge. Describe the significance of the research including potential benefit for individual subjects or society at large (i.e., how the research might contribute to generalizable knowledge).
   b) Specific Aim or Aims: Please state in one sentence the specific aims of the project. Specific aims are concrete, measurable steps a researcher will take to achieve a broader research objective or test a hypothesis. Aims outline how a study will be conducted to answer a question or test a prediction, often using action verbs like "to determine" or "to compare."
   c) Hypothesis of Project: Please state in one sentence beginning with "We hypothesize..." that clearly states the purpose of this project.
   d) Research Plan: (minimum 200 words, maximum 500 words): Provide a description of the following: study design, sample population (including inclusion and exclusion criteria), study procedures, measurements and outcomes (including specific primary and secondary outcomes).
   e) Data Analysis Plan: Provide a description of the sample size and basis for the determination and a justification for specific statistical/analytical methods to be used.

2. **Mentor Training Plan (125-250 words)** - The Mentor training plan describes the anticipated research experience for the student, as well as the mentor's lab environment. This plan should be co-written by the mentor and student and include how the mentor will be involved in training the student on the proposed project, who will guide the applicant on day-to-day technical issues, what formal and informal seminars, laboratory meetings, journal clubs, etc. will be used to enrich the student's scientific development, and the adequacy of physical resources, including computer resources, to support the proposed project during the fellowship term.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Medical students must be in good standing with the university.
- Applicants must be able to conduct research full-time, on campus from **June 1 – July 30.**
- Students must **not** be enrolled in medical school coursework, remediation, or clinical rotations during the time.
- Students must **not** be receiving funding from another source for summer research.
- Students must **not** have any other on-campus employment.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS:
Reviewers will evaluate each applicant's demonstrated scholarship and promise for future achievement in academic medicine. The panel will also consider the appropriateness of the designated project for training in the proposed areas of research, the quality of the training environment, and the mentor's stated plans for training the applicant. The reviewers will evaluate the impact of the research experience and how it would further the applicant's development in his/her career as an academic physician. ***Evaluations by the review committee will be confidential*.**

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